

NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. C. Jebamony Nadar;

"I beg to move the adjournment of the business of the House in order to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the uneasy situation created by the hunger-strikes in the hostels of Trivandrum."

Does the honourable member make himself responsible for the accuracy of the allegation or the authenticity of the hunger-strike referred to?

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: I would like to have a statement on the matter from the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: To my knowledge, a few students might have forgone a meal or two; I do not think there is any general hunger-strike. In fact, yesterday, the students were moving about; and I do not think they were starving.

PRESIDENT: As there seems to be controversy even about the authenticity of the report which has led to the notice of this adjournment motion, and since, in the light of the statement of the Director of Public Instruction, the matter does not seem to be of urgent public importance, I disallow the motion.

WALK-OUTS.

PRESIDENT: I have to invite the attention of the House to the proceedings of the meeting held yesterday. I find from the authenticated report of the proceedings the report given by the shorthand writer that Mr. Thanu Pillai has said.

"**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** Since this important matter which affects the public has not been allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House....."

PRESIDENT: Order, order, the honourable member will take his seat. He is not in order in canvassing the ruling of the Chair.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Since this important motion is declared not in order, I walk out of this Hall in protest."

With regard to the statement made by Mr. Thanu Pillai prior to the walk-out, I have to make the following observations by way of a ruling.

Any statement of policy, made on behalf of the Government, or made by the Dewan or the Dewan-President speaking as the exponent of the policy of Government or as the representative of the Government, can be objected to and protested against and, constitutionally, there is no objection to honourable members walking-out by way of protest in regard to such statements on administrative matters. But in regard to the rulings of the Chair, namely statements made by the President as Chairman of the Assembly, and rulings of the Chair, they are binding on all the members of the Assembly and by universal

[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

practice are loyally accepted within the precincts of the House. Ordinary rules of Parliamentary practice require that all rulings by the Chair should be accepted without question; otherwise, it is impossible for such Parliamentary bodies to get on. If the rulings, as such, of the President, are objected to and walk-outs are started as protest against rulings, it would be impossible to maintain decorum and order in this House consistently with the traditions of Parliamentary practice.

This matter has arisen not only in the Parliament but also in the Legislative Assembly; and definite rulings are available to show the very clear distinction between rulings of the Chairman and statements by persons representing or purporting to speak on behalf of the Government. As such distinction might not have been before the minds of the Honourable members when they staged the walk-out yesterday, I want to make it clear. I trust that hereafter, for the purpose of observing the rules which all of us cherish so much, and for the purpose of maintaining the dignity of the House which I know every one of us wishes to maintain, the rulings of the Chair will be obeyed without a protest or walk-out.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I beg to move that, in view of the report of the Select Committee, the matter need not be proceeded with further and may be recorded as such, and that we pass on to the next item of business on the agenda.

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI ROW: I second it.

PRESIDENT: The Select Committee has come to the practically unanimous conclusion that the present sitting hours of the Assembly may continue. In those circumstances, the Legal Remembrancer moves that we pass on to the next item in the order of business.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE TRAVANCORE HINDU WIDOWS REMARRIAGE BILL.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA: I beg to move that the Travancore Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill as amended and passed by the Sri Chitra State Council be taken up for consideration.

The amendment that they have made is to the following effect:

"Add the following as explanation to clause (1):

"Unless there be anything repugnant in the text, the term "Hindu" means any person governed by Hindu Law."

MR. M. RAMAIAH PILLAI: I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Under Rule 46 the President has to put the amendment to the vote of this Chamber. Now that the amendment has been carried, the Bill as amended has been accepted by this Chamber; and a message that this House has passed the Bill as